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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

I. On page 1, line 3, immediately after title, please replace the paragraph corresponding to the text of Applicant's Preliminary Amendment filed on March 10, 1998, with the following paragraph:

C1 This application is the national phase of PCT Patent Application GB97/02790 filed on October 9, 1997; which claims priority to UK Provisional Application No. GB 9621129.7, filed on October 10, 1996.

II. On page 24, please delete the third paragraph beginning on line 10 and following "PCR CONDITIONS" and replace with the following paragraph:

C2 1.75mM (final concentration) MgCl₂ and cycling protocol of 1 cycle at 96° C for 1 minute;

30 cycles of [94° C (1 minute), 60° C (1 minute), 70° C (1 minute)]; and

1 cycle at 70° C for 2 minutes.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 10-12 and amend claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 as follows:

C3 1. **(Once Amended)** A kit for the identification of a diabetic patient's genetic polymorphism pattern at IL-1A (-889), IL-1B (-511), and IL-1RN (VNTR) associated with increased risk of sight-threatening retinopathy, said kit comprising:

(a) DNA sample collecting means, and

(b) means for determining a genetic polymorphism pattern for IL-1A (-889), IL-1B (-511), and IL-1RN (VNTR).